The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news concerning editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and includes other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Widespread poverty and concentrated wealth cannot long endure side by side in a democracy.—Thomas Jefferson.

WHOLE NO. 1357 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1937 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 37, NO. 16

Wagner Labor Relations Act Upheld By Supreme Court in Five Opinions

Nation's High Judicial Tribunal Affirms Power of Congress to Regulate Labor Relations and Protect Workers' Right to Organize and Bargain Collectively in Broad Range of Industries.

Holds that Labor Disputes Interfere with Interstate Commerce and That Legislation to Mitigate Them Is Within the Constitutional Prerogatives of the People's National Law-Making Body.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—In a series of five outstanding decisions the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935 and affirmed the constitutionality of the actions of the National Labor Relations Board in administering the Act.

The decisions established the principle that labor relations in industries organized on a national scale and drawing raw materials from and shipping finished products into various States come within the power conferred on Congress to regulate interstate commerce even though the products are manufactured locally.

Unfair Labor Practices Banned

The National Labor Relations Act was passed to facilitate the free flow of interstate commerce by establishing legally the principle of collective bargaining between bona fide trade unions and employers, thereby to mitigate labor disputes and other forms of industrial unrest which are held to interrupt the flow of interstate commerce.

The law specifically prohibits the following "unfair labor practices":

1. Interfering with, restraining, or coercing employes in the exercise of their rights of self-organization and collective bargaining.

2. Dominating or interfering with the formation or administration of any labor organization, or contributing financial or other support to it.

3. Discriminating in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment to discourage membership in any labor organization, but an employer is not precluded from entering into an agreement with a union of the appropriate craft or craft of employes making union membership a condition of employment.

4. Discharging or otherwise discriminating against an employe for filing charges or giving testimony under the Act.

5. Refusing to bargain collectively with the representatives of the employes.

There is also a provision that the Act shall not be construed to interfere with, impede or diminish the right to strike.

It was on these fundamentals of declarations regarding the right of the workers to organize in trade unions and bargain collectively free from interference by employers which the Supreme Court upheld in four five-to-four decisions and one unanimous decision.

Main Charge Was Discrimination Against Union Members

All of the five cases were concerned with the activities of employers in violation of the unfair labor practices banned by the Labor Act and hinging on the discrimination against employes for union membership and activities.

The constitutionality of the Act was challenged before the Supreme Court by the Associated Press, the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, the Friedman-Harry Marks Clothing Company, the Fruehauf Trailer Company and the Washington, Virginia, and Maryland Coach Company.

The Associated Press charged that the Act was unconstitutional in that its employees were not engaged in interstate commerce and that its constitutionally-guaranteed freedom of the press was abridged by the failure of the National Labor Relations Board in requiring the reinstatement of a discharged member of the American Newspaper Guild. The Supreme Court ruled against both of these contentions.

The Jones and Laughlin Steel Company contended that its employees were not engaged in interstate commerce and therefore the jurisdiction of the Wagner Act to them was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court overruled both of these claims.

The Friedman-Harry Marks Clothing Company claimed although it imported its raw materials from many States and exported its manufactured articles to many States its business was local and therefore did not come under interstate commerce. The Supreme Court ruled against this contention.

The Fruehauf Trailer Company also made the claim that although it imported raw material from various States and shipped finished products to various States its business is local and not within the regulatory power of Congress. The Supreme Court vetoed this contention.

The Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company admitted it was engaged in interstate commerce, but challenged the constitutional power of Congress to protect the rights of the company's employes to organize. The Supreme Court overruled this claim.

The opinion in the coach company case was unanimous. In the other four cases the opinions were of the five-to-four type, Chief Justice Hughes and Associate Justices Brandeis, Cardozo, Roberts and Stone upheld the constitutionality of the Act. Associate Justices McReynolds, Sutherland, Butler and Van Devanter claimed it was unconstitutional.

Right to Organize Is Fundamental

In the court's majority opinion, which carried the keynote reflected in the other opinions, Chief Justice Hughes said that the Labor Act "goes no further than to safeguard the right of employes to self-organization and to choose representatives of their own choosing for collective bargaining or other mutual protection without restraint or coercion by their employers."

"That is a fundamental right. Employe representation is a fair right to organize, to select their representatives for lawful purposes as the respondent has organized its business and select its own officers and agents.

"Discrimination and coercion to prevent the free exercise of the right of employes to self-organization and representation is a proper subject for condemnation by competent legislative authority.

"Long ago we stated the reason for labor organizations. We said that they were organized out of the necessities of the situation; that a single employe was helpless in dealing with an employer; that he was dependent ordinarily on his daily wage for the maintenance of himself and family; that if the employer refused to pay him the wages that he deemed fair, he was nevertheless unable to leave the employ and resist arbitrary and unfair treatment; that there was essential to give laborers opportunity to deal on an equality with their employer."

Labor Relations and Interstate Commerce

Turning to the contention that the far-flung activities of the Jones and Laughlin Company, extending into many States, were strictly manufacturing and not commerce, and therefore, not interstate commerce, the Chief Justice said:

"We are asked to shut our eyes to the plainest facts of our national life and to deal with the question of direct and indirect effects in an intellectual vacuum. Because there may be but an indirect effect on interstate commerce in connection with a host of local enterprises throughout the country, it does not follow that other industrial activities do not have such a close and intimate relation to interstate commerce as to make the presence of industrial strife a matter of the most urgent national concern.

"When industries organize themselves on a national scale, making their relation to interstate commerce the dominant factor in their activities, how can it be maintained that their industrial labor relations constitute a forbidden field into which Congress may not enter when it is necessary to protect interstate commerce from the paralyzing consequences of industrial war?"

The Chief Justice disagreed with this out-of-date and false theory and declared that instead of barring Congress from regulating labor relations and protecting the right to organize in such industries, the Constitution definitely confers upon Congress such authority.

Associated Press Case

The case of the Associated Press case was written by Associate Justice Roberts, who said that the Labor Act does not protect the employes' right of collective bargaining and prohibits acts of the employer discriminating against employes for union activities and advocacy of such rights, but does not prohibit the union activities to abate the employer discrimination and right to bargain collectively.

The Associated Press claimed it was not engaged in interstate commerce and consequently was exempt from the Labor Act. It also claimed that the order of the Labor Board requiring the reinstatement of Morris Watson, a news editor whom the Board found the Associated Press had discharged because of his membership in the American Newspaper Guild, was a violation of the provision of the Constitution prohibiting Congress from abridging freedom of the press.

Freedom of Press Not Abridged

But the Court held that the Labor Act does not let abridge freedom of the press when it safeguards the right of an employe to belong to a union and use union activities to improve the economic conditions and protect him from employer policies designed to restrict or destroy that right.

"The business of the Associated Press," the opinion said, "is not immune from regulation because it is an agency of the press. The publisher of a newspaper has no special privilege to violate the application of general laws. He has no special privilege to invade the rights and liberties of others."

The question raised here in question has no relation whatever to the impartial publication of the news and the duty of the board in no wise circumscribes the full freedom and liberty of the petitioner to publish the news as it desires. It is published or to enforce policies of its own selection, to censor the news and edit the rewriting of news for publication, and to be free from the restraint of any. The charge Watson or any editorial employe who fails to comply with the policies it may adopt."

COOPERATIVE STORE OPENED IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Salt Lake City, Utah (AFLNS).—The Utah Consumers' Cooperative Association was organized to foster the principles of cooperative in Salt Lake City, with grocery, meat, clothing, furniture, fruits and delicatessen departments. The association has 600 members. It is organized under the provisions of the Non-Profit Corporation Act of Utah, and its objects are to promote the economic welfare of the members by utilizing their united buying and selling power to purchase, distribution and production of commodities, and for the performance of services in the interest of the members in the most economical way.

Consumers' Cooperation carries the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor as a method by which workers may be assured honest value for their money, and thereby may increase their purchasing power by eliminating waste and middlemen's profits.

GREEN LAUDS HIGH COURT'S RULE UPHOLDING LABOR ACT

Declares Decisions Are "Triumphant Achievement" for the A. F. of L. and Its Friends Who Persistently Fought for the Enactment of the Measure.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared that the decisions of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act were a great forward step in the development of human relations in industry and that the end of company unions was in sight.

The text of Mr. Green's statement follows:

"Labor everywhere will welcome the decisions of the Supreme Court upholding the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act with feelings of approval and genuine satisfaction. These decisions are in keeping with the economic and industrial changes which have taken place and the development of human relations in industry which now play such an important part in the daily life of the people. They represent progress as well as the establishment of a rational relationship between employers and employees.

"The decisions are fraught with deep significance and will prove to be of tremendous importance. Labor will now be free to organize without fear of discrimination and opposition. A new impetus will be given the Organized Labor Movement. It means the end of company unions.

"The Supreme Court's decisions must be held as a triumphant achievement for the American Federation of Labor and its friends who have fought persistently and so hard to secure the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act."

Supreme Court's Coach Company Ruling Favors Street Railway Employes Union

Decision Also Affects Pennsylvania Greyhound Lines—Discharged Union Members Will Be Reinstated With Back Pay.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington—Officials of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America were highly pleased with the five decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States upholding the constitutionality of the National Labor Relations Act and especially with the decision upholding the Act as applied to the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company which operates motor busses out of the District of Columbia to Maryland and Virginia points.

Although in four decisions the Court split five-to-four, all nine Justices were unanimous in their opinion that the Act as applied to the Coach Company as the operator of a motor carrier coming under interstate commerce, with the logical implication that the Act also applies to all bus companies operating between various States.

The Amalgamated Association has been prominent in the fight to establish the Wagner Labor Relations Act. The first case before the National Labor Relations Board was in a revolving unfair labor practices on the part of the Pennsylvania Greyhound Lines, Inc., in which the Supreme Court decided was that involving the discharge of 13 members of the Amalgamated Association by the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Coach Company for joining the Union. These discharges took place in May of 1936. The discharges of five Pennsylvania Greyhound employes took place in July of 1935. As a result of the decision these employes will be ordered by the Board with pay for all the time they lost.

With the constitutionality of the Wagner Law established, the Amalgamated Association is redoubling its efforts in organizing the bus transportation to all employes of the Nation's bus lines under the Act.

The Amalgamated Association is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and through its charter has jurisdiction over bus drivers, mechanics and miscellaneous employes of the bus and motor stage companies.

Estate-Closing Threat Ends Laborers' Strike on Mellon's 12,000-Acre Farm

Wealthy Nephew of Former Secretary of the Treasury Grants Five Cents an Hour Wage Increase to Workers on Resort for Fox Hunters and Steeple-Chase Habitues.

Ligonier, Pa. (AFLNS).—The threat by the Mellon interests of Pittsburgh to close out their fox hunting estate in Westmoreland county rather than grant increased wages to the 240 farm hands who struck persuaded the Mellon estate to give in to the strikers. The threat also persuaded the owners of 240 farms adjoining the Mellon estate to increase their scales of pay and working conditions.

The Mellon estate consists of the 12,000-acre Rolling Rock Farms, where fox hunts and steeplechases have been held annually since 1914 by the late Mrs. Alan M. Scaife, and is managed by Richard King Mellon, nephew and president of the Mellon National Bank of Pittsburgh.

The farm-hand strikers were particularly bitter because they were given work for the use of their farms for hunting. They demanded an increase in their wage rate from 20 to 50 cents an hour. When the farm hands struck the owners of 240 farms which adjoin the Mellon estate started a sympathy movement. They granted the farm hands' strikers' reasonable demands were granted they would not permit the cus-

"Chowderhead" Cohen Describes His Job As Strikebreaker for Borden Milk Firm

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Albany—Details of activities of a strikebreaker were recently recounted by the notorious Sam Cohen, known to police as "chowderhead," when he appeared himself as a "gorilla," in his testimony before the National Labor Relations Board in New York City relative to his activities in the Borden Milk Products Company, which was charged by Local 680 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters with having discharged members of the union last year while the milk company was trying to break the organization of a company union in its plant at Elizabeth, N. J.

The union called a strike in May, 1936, and the Labor Board in June of the Labor Board issue an order requiring the company to reinstate the dismissed men.

The attorney for the Labor Board claimed that Cohen was in charge of "strikebreaking activities" when the plant at Elizabeth in automobiles to break up picket lines and otherwise foment trouble.

In describing his functions in the strike Cohen said he was hired by the company as a "guard," for which he was paid $5 a day and sometimes got more. He stood at the door of the plant and kept out persons he did not think belonged in the building and saw that there was no loitering. Those he admitted stayed in a room up stairs "waiting."

On pay day he supervised the line-up of the "waiting" men while they were paid off at the rate of $5 a day for "waiting time." He said he examined their cards to see that they were paid the pay line "that didn't belong there," and identified by number and name by the group.

"What I do is guard work," he boasted. "Protect life and property and keep order from being disturbed. I do that. If I didn't do it the cops would, and I figure I could do well get the money as leave the cops do it."

GEORGIA SOLONS ARE URGED TO FAVOR CHILD LABOR BAN

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The Central Labor Union of Atlanta, Georgia, does not mince words in emphasizing the importance of favorable action on the Child Labor Amendment to the Federal Constitution by the Georgia Legislature.

In a letter recently sent to each representative in the legislature from Fulton county, the Central Labor Union pointed out that the new administration of the State government "on many occasions in their campaign pledged their full support and accord to the National Administration," and that the Child Labor Amendment was overwhelmingly endorsed by the voters during the last campaign, gave the pledge made during the administration of a second effort would be put forth "towards eliminating child labor."

With regard to the duty of legislators in connection with the Amendment, the letter continued:

"Georgia, as you gentlemen are well aware, is not one of the few remaining States that has not adopted the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In our opinion, a record not to be admired of. Another angle to this is that in time to come we would not be so proud of the fact that this act was forced upon the State by default, and all on account of the State, through its legislature not living up to the administration's campaign pledges.

"You gentlemen being perfectly familiar with the Act, know that it is simply an enabling Act, and that it will never be so far reaching as to invade any home, either in the city or on the farm, or prevent a child from taking part in home duties. It only seeks to conserve the formative period of every child's life to education and development.

INTERCOASTAL STEAMSHIP PASSENGER RATES BOOSTED

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Lots of people get blue in the face at the rising suggestion of price-fixing by the Government, but they dig into their pocketbooks quietly and without complaint the prices fixed by private interests whose collusion is not publicly disclosed on promotion of the general welfare.

This principle has just been illustrated in the last of visible complaints from steamship passengers against the determination of those who own and operate the large intercoastal steamship lines to grab more profits by jacking up passenger rates. Officials of the Panama Pacific Line and Grace Line have announced an increase in passenger rates from New York to California, specifying that during the travel season the minimum rate will be boosted from $125 to $250, and the minimum off-season rate from $150 to $275.

Would-be passengers can either pay these new steamship rates and travel to the Pacific Coast by rail, or buy automobiles and motor overland—or stay at home.

SCREEN ACTORS DEMAND RECOGNITION OF GUILD

Union Seeks Status of Bargaining Agency For All Hollywood Players.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The Screen Actors' Guild demanded recognition as the collective bargaining agency for Hollywood players at the annual labor conference of the film industry in session here in the office of Pat Casey, the producers' labor relations counsel. The Guild, whose president is Robert Montgomery and whose executive secretary is Kenneth Thomson, includes among its members many well-known film people as Joan Crawford, Bing Crosby, Ginger Rogers, Gary Cooper, Fred Astaire, Eddie Cantor and Ben Barzyncz. The Guild claims a membership of 5,600.

The demand for recognition, which climaxes a four-year fight against the domination of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood, asks a basic agreement covering all Hollywood performers from stars to bit players, extras and "atmosphere" groups.

Rest Periods Asked

Mr. Thomson explained that the Guild's chief aim for stars and featured players is the establishment of a thirty-hour rest period after overtime work. He said the big stars are able to negotiate their own working conditions, but that other performers are relatively helpless.

He pointed out that players who work by the day and "atmosphere" players who work by the week need a guild contract. He claimed that extras have been victimized by all sorts of abuses, particularly in the method of hiring through the Central Casting Bureau which supplies them.

In discussing wages, Mr. Thomson said that what are known as "three extras," who must maintain elaborate wardrobes at their own expense, are paid $10 daily in street clothes and $15 in evening clothes. Other extra classifications call for $10 or $7.50 per day. Because in atmosphere groups who do not have to wear costumes, get $5 and professional dancers are paid $10. Any person speaking lines gets $25.

SIT-DOWNERS CONVICTED OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT

New York Judge Rules WPA Workers Illegally Seized and Occupied Government Property.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Sit-down strikers are bringing decisions from courts and labor relations which will quite likely be used by judges in other jurisdictions as precedents in handling similar cases.

The principle involved as many judges see it was expressed by Magistrate Anthony Ruvarescu in a case in New York City growing out of the action of a group of thirty-four WPA workers in the Queensborough Public Library building. Floor of the Queensborough Hall of Fame for Great Americans, faced with reduction of WPA wages and persecution of its workers by employers, on a warrant obtained by Borough President George U. Harvey, charged with disorderly conduct. In finding them guilty of the charge, Magistrate Ruvarescu said:

"There have been a lot of decisions recently relative to so-called sit-down strikes in which the rights of property holders were concerned. In this instance we have here the question of a government building.

"At the time these defendants allegedly, in the opinion of the court, they no longer had any right to remain in the premises. The continuance of the sit-down strike constituted a seizure of property. Such seizure of property, coupled with disorderly conduct, may result in chaos, rebellion and anarchy, or that is what happened in Germany.

"I think these defendants are guilty as charged, but in view of the fact that all appear to be of good character, physicians and most of them college graduates and all of them employed on relief projects, and in view of the fact that I believe they have been misguided, I will suspend sentence."

Borough President Harvey said he was pleased with the decision handed down by Magistrate Savarese and was glad that the judge saw fit to deal leniently with the strikers. He added that the decision proves conclusively that there are legal methods to prevent sit-down strikes in Government buildings which can be applied when "employers are willing to secure the necessary warrants."

WPA REDUCED PAY FOR BAD WEATHER CAUSES SUFFERING

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The suffering caused by pay envelope cuts for time lost because of bad weather conditions by the jobless employed on WPA projects was recently revealed by C. Conrad Wirth, director of the St. Louis, Mo., Relief Committee who stated that these layoffs during the winter months are due to deal WPA workers below a subsistence standard of living established by relief rolls.

He said some of the WPA workers have been cut in pay so often that their families to support, exhibited their last month's check stub showing net monthly earnings as low as eight and ten dollars. He added that he was compelled to return applications for relief when authorities did not have sufficient funds for those already on relief rolls who could assume no further responsibilities.

Formerly WPA workers got regular pay without deduction for time lost because of bad weather conditions. But for more than a year, it was stated, they have been paid only for time actually worked. For common labor, at which most of the WPA workers are employed, the wage rate is fifty cents an hour.

L. E. Greathouse, WPA administrator for St. Louis, said those who are now making wages under the rule that bad weather would be permitted to make up the time would be permitted to work that in the long run they would lose little in earnings.

On the regular WPA schedule there are three 8-hour working days in each 16-day payroll period, so that, weather permitting, lost time could be made up in the following days.

Greathouse said that the greatest loss in working time for those who had any knowledge was one project where there had been only five working days in a 16-day period.

Prompt Passage of Federal Billion Dollar Housing Bill Urged by Green

A. F. of L. Head Says Quick Action on Wagner-Steagall Measure Is Required to Provide Dwellings for 5,633,000 Families in Low-Income Groups Whose Wages Are So Small They Cannot Afford Housing Built Under the Profit System.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The importance of the prompt enactment by Congress of the United States Housing Bill, introduced jointly in the Senate and House of Representatives by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York and Representative Henry B. Steagall of Alabama, was stressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in the first hearing on the bill held by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, of which Senator Hugo L. Black of Alabama is chairman.

The purpose of the Wagner-Steagall measure is to provide housing accommodations for millions of workers and their families in those groups where the wages insured to employers are so small that the victimized toilers are unable to rent or buy habitations accommodations produced and sold under the profit system.

The bill proposes the establishment of a Federal Housing Authority authorized to issue guaranteed Government bonds up to $1,000,000,000 over a period of four years to be used for loans to State and local housing authorities for the construction of low-rent housing according to the policy set forth in the Housing Bill.

There is also included in the bill a provision for grants or subsidies not to exceed $10,000,000 a year for four years to keep rents in the government-assisted housing projects down to reasonable levels.

In his statement Mr. Green said he was well aware that both the Senate Committee on Education and the United States Senate shared his view that the legislation proposed by Senator Wagner's Housing Bill "is outstanding in importance, sound in principle and designed to carry out the legislative intent of the Congress of the United States."

Pointing out that a bill containing substantially the same provisions as the measure now before the Committee was approved by the Senate of the United States during the last session of the Congress," Mr. Green said that the A. F. of L. was impressed with the emphatic appeal made by President Roosevelt recently to provide housing for that one-third of the people of the United States which is now ill-housed makes me feel confident that the bill will be approved by the House of Congress and signed by the President of the United States at an early date.

"In view of this, my task is not so much to review the purpose of this measure, not so much to analyze again the significance of the housing problem as to urge upon you prompt and immediate action.

"The extent of the housing shortage and the seriousness of the problem are so many that it clearly becomes the public duty of Congress to act now."

In emphasizing the tremendous housing shortage and the need for government assistance according to the policy of the Housing Bill to remedy it, Mr. Green said, in part:

Work for Jobless

"One of the basic objectives of this measure is to help alleviate the present and recurring unemployment. Today there are more than four years of recovery. 9,700,000 wage-earners are still without normal employment. Despite stimulated activity in the construction industry only 1,138,000 are employed, among skilled mechanics as well as laborers in the building trades—those whose normal employment would be in the forefront—unemployment is still unbearably heavy as to hold no hope of immediate reabsorption. Relief in the absence of adequate remedy, rents are bound to go faster than wages.

"If we permit this to take place, we will be increasing the enormous housing deficit which we have today, but we will also be bound to accept the future necessity of purchasing power for low wage-earners and thereby permit the cycle to recur. If possible we have only constructed about half this number of dwellings we have even constructed in one boom a million or 400,000 dwellings less than we will be required to construct for the next 13 years. Doubling up and overcrowding is the only alternative to a housing program which will meet these needs.

Wages of Low Income Groups

"The Wagner bill contemplates construction of new housing to take care of the needs of families with incomes of less than $1,200 a year. These are the families that constitute the chief housing at prices that can be offered by private enterprise.

"The real property inventory taken by the Federal Government in 64 cities in 1933 revealed that two-thirds of the families investigated received less than $1,257 a year. According to a study made by the Brookings Institution, 42 per cent of our nation's families in 1929 received family income of less than $1,500. This means that out of 27,500,000 families in the United States, 11,550,000 live on less than $1,500 or less and that more than one-fifth of all families, 5,633,000, are forced to live on less than $1,000 a year.

"The limited housing for these income groups cannot and will not interefere in the slightest degree with accommodations by private enterprise. European experience for a long time now over housing furnishes convincing proof of this."

Six-Hour Day For Railway Workers Urged by Whitney

Cleveland, Ohio (AFLNS).—Renewed efforts on the part of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks to secure the adoption of hours and higher wages were announced by A. J. Whitney, president of the Brotherhood. He stressed the importance of rallying more support among railroad organizations for the six-hour, five-day law for railroad employes now pending before Congress at Washington.

Maintenance of Way Brotherhood Takes Over Dual Union on Pennsylvania System

Discontinuance of Independent Organization Adds 23,000 Members to A. F. of L. Union.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

One of the outstanding events in the history of the labor took place in Pittsburgh, Pa., recently when the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, absorbed an independent union of maintenance of way men on the Pennsylvania Railroad.

As a result of the merger the dual independent union, which had 23,000 members, ceased to exist and the representatives of the union, the existing agreements and contracts with the Pennsylvania and subsidiary lines were taken over by the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes.

The merger was voted unanimously by 200 delegates from local unions of the dual organization at a meeting in Pittsburgh. They met with the National President F. H. Fljodal and Vice-President Edward J. Hall, G. E. Milliman, Detroit, Mich., and National Vice-President Oscar F. Holleran of Scranton, Pa., representing the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes.

Immediately upon adoption of the resolution merging the Pennsylvania group with the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes the Pennsylvania System Federation Board was formed to represent the many groups of way employes of the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Lines.